

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Kindly replace the first paragraph on page 1 with the following:

This application is a continuation of International Application No. PCT/IT03/00237 filed April 15, 2003, ~~claiming priority on U.S. 10/137,699 filed May 3, 2002 (now U.S. Patent 6,797,722), and a continuation in part of U.S. Application Serial No. No. 10/137,699, filed May 3, 2002 (now U.S. Patent 6,797,722),~~ the entire content of each of which is hereby incorporated by reference in this application.

Kindly replace the third paragraph on page 6 with the following:

In particular, according to the method of the present invention, said subject is affected by an autoimmune disease, such as multiple sclerosis, systemic lupus erythematosus-sistemicus, rheumatoid arthritis-reumatoid (RA) and uveitis.